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Legislator Hits NSA Link

Ottinger Fears CIA Imperils Peace Corps

By JOHN E. SIMONDS

A Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The Central Intelligence Agency's involvement in the National Student Association could threaten the effectiveness of the Peace Corps, Rep. Richard L. Ottinger, D-N.Y., declared yesterday.

The Pleasantville Democrat said that when he was helping to administer the Peace Corps program in Latin America, "we had a policy of staying away from the CIA" to combat the communist propaganda that Peace Corps volunteers were actually spies, "but this kind of revelation about the NSA lends credence to what the communists have been saying, even though it's not true."

Ottinger, who directed Peace Corps programs for the west coast of South America from 1961-64., said in an interview that as far as he knows the Peace Corps has remained free of interference by the CIA. But the disclosures of the past week will not help to convince many people in foreign countries of this, he said.

"I have always thought we ought to maintain better supervision in Congress over the CIA," Ottinger said. "I'm afraid the books and stories about it are unfortunately true. The CIA is

extraordinarily inept.

"When I was in South America, I remember seeing pictures of these agents in the newspapers down there, and they were identified right in the papers as CIA members."